

WTR Items for Arizona Congressional Visits

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Rosemont Copper Mine

Hudbay Minerals, Inc., a Canadian integrated mining company, seeks approval for a new open-pit copper and molybdenum mine proposed for construction on approximately 3,655 acres of National Forest System land and 1,200 acres of private land southeast of Tucson. The mineral deposit could reportedly produce up to 10% of the U.S. annual production of copper. The project would irreparably undo decades of public efforts to protect drinking water supplies, biological resources and sensitive aquatic ecosystems within the Cienega Creek watershed, which contains regionally rare, largely intact mosaics of the highest quality stream and wetland ecosystems in Arizona. The Los Angeles District of the Army Corps of Engineers recommended denial of the \$404 CWA permit. The Corps' South Pacific Division is currently deciding whether to uphold or overturn the District's recommendation for permit denial. The following pertains to the NEPA process:

- On June 6, 2017, the U.S. Forest Service signed its Record of Decision (ROD) to approve the mine plan of operations for the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine and amend the 1986 Forest Plan by creating a new management area around the mine site.
- EPA submitted comments on the Forest Service's Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2011 and the public Draft EIS in 2012. EPA did not submit comments on the Forest Service's Final EIS.
- EPA participated in the 2014-2016 interagency coordination process for this project with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, convened by the Council on Environmental Quality.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

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